

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

A computer being controlled is coupled via a communications bus to at least one other device comprising one or more authorized management devices. The one or more authorized management devices are coupled to a management port. Only management commands received from authorized management devices via the management port may be executed or otherwise responded to. Management commands received from other devices are ignored. In a preferred embodiment, the communication bus is an IEEE 1394 serial bus. In this manner, the present invention provides for the use of more direct communication technologies, such as the IEEE 394 serial bus, while simultaneously providing a greater degree of security than previously available.